



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine and
Health Sciences

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH
SCIENCES, FACULTY COUNCIL

Steering Committee

Minutes

November 8, 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council Steering Committee held on November 8, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT (via Zoom)

Bandara, Shashika (<i>PGSS graduate student rep</i>)	Clement, Jason (for D. Colby)	Fellows, Lesley (Chair)
Gonnerman, Laura	Maione, Stefanie (secretary)	Marchionni, Caroline
Moss, Leah	Robaire, Bernard	Soufi, Ghassen (<i>ARM</i>)

Regrets: Rami Habib (*ARM delegate*), Adam Hassan (*MSS*), Jeremy Levett (*postgraduate student representative*), Ariane Marelli

1. Review of the August 30, 2023 Steering Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

2. Review of the September 27, 2023 Faculty Council Minutes

The Chair indicated having made some minor changes which were distributed to the committee earlier that morning; the minutes were approved without change.

L. Gonnerman mentioned this would be her last meeting as she would be leaving at the end of the semester. A replacement Professional Schools representative will need to be sought.

3. Review of topics for the December 5, 2023 FC meeting [education, research, students]

Before proceeding, the Chair asked if anyone had any comments on the last Faculty Council meeting, for which B. Robaire noted it went smoothly and thought having more topics for interactive discussion could help; the Chair agreed. B. Robaire also noted an improvement in attendance since the switch to Zoom platform.

L. Moss mentioned having received a request for the Chair to comment on the Quebec tuition increase, which she replied would be discussed during the Dean's remarks. Also, she reminded participants about an earlier discussion whereby it was suggested to make these meetings thematic. The Chair agreed that by the December 5 Faculty Council meeting, she would be happy to report on

the status of the tuition situation. S. Bandara suggested acknowledging the context of the conflict that has been affecting students and faculty surrounding the war in the Middle East; the Chair agreed this could be done based on the Faculty's functions and to the extent in which it is affecting members of our community, however expressed the need to be careful on how this is addressed based on the sensitive nature. G. Soufi suggested a presentation related to French pertaining to McGill's plan to put a hold on the French plan. On that front, C. Marchionni wondered if we could speak about current resources available for learners as well as faculty. L. Moss noted that when a change in admissions requirements was needed for Nursing and Medicine, they underwent a deep-dive and found resources available that were student-led and from central, so suggested putting up a slide of resources available to students, faculty and staff. The Chair further suggested to present a high-level summary of where we are teaching or working in French. She further noted there will be a piloted program for the international medical graduates who come to do residency training and may or may not speak French on arrival, so this program would help them rapidly upgrade their French. She suggested inviting L. Tourian to speak.

Student/learner topics:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – Visa & passport inequities:* As of August 30, 2023, S. Bandara suggested this is a key issue for international students as it reduces access to education/conferences for many low/middle income country students. As of November 8, 2023, S. Bandara updated that he presented on this today and is not sure how we can particularly push the Faculty around this, but feels raising awareness among advisors and administration can be helpful. L. Moss asked if he had any particular calls to action from his presentation, for which he promised to share his presentation as a starting point for consideration. The Chair suggested putting this out there as something to keep in mind. B. Robaire referenced an item further on in the agenda about asking the Principal to speak, noting this topic could be fit into his comments, however it was also noted timing should be considered as to which Faculty Council would be most appropriate to invite him to speak at.
- ii. *Student wellness:* S. Bandara suggested this topic for consideration at the January 25, 2023 Steering Committee meeting, noting it would be good to hear from students, especially graduate students, in terms of where they are and what needs to be done. As of August 30, the Chair suggested combining this and the topic of graduate students and postdocs into one to provide an update on how things are going in terms of wellness and ask A. Ryan for an update. As of November 8, 2023, S. Bandara noted that since last year, there has been some progress made in Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies with a new counsellor being hired for graduate students alone and suggested either the counsellor or a student could be invited to speak. The Chair agreed, noting it would be a good reminder of what resources are available. L. Moss reminded everyone that A. Ryan's name has been associated with this item because she was the lead of a needs assessment which was the justification for a local advisor, who has already presented. The Chair thought it might be worth reviewing briefly. L. Moss added she also found out this week that the Director of Student Services centrally, Martine Gauthier,

has left McGill and that her portfolio included running the Student Wellness Hub, so two of our colleagues are co-leading it while they look for her replacement. L. Moss further mentioned she would have liked to invite the Director to speak as a kind of resource and would be happy to invite the co-leads in the interim. The Chair suggested inviting each of the people responsible for these three components to present a few slides.

Research topics:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – Communicating research to the public effectively and getting faculty and students more engaged:* As of November 8, 2023, J. Clement mentioned M. Pai gives a whole course on this, and noted it could be an interesting presentation from that perspective, further indicating it could be something Communications can do with him as well to let people know about the resources at the Faculty and centrally to help with (e.g. media outreach). S. Bandara replied it is about building courses but also reaching out to the public and building strategies to speak on policy issues. He further noted as part of the strategy, he organized an event taking place on November 23 for which he will share further details. The Chair noted this could be a theme in terms of the Faculty’s role in wider social society with this as one topic and perhaps some other things to highlight what we are doing and discuss what else we could be doing to be leaders in discourse on addressing the challenges in society (e.g. how we teach and how our expertise is brought to bear). L. Moss noted one of the things she and J. Clement work on yearly is the award for the Principal’s Prize for Public Engagement through Media and suggested she could look at the list of past winners to see how they approach communicating what they do and best practices/role modeling.

B. Robaire noted seeing a theme evolve in having our interaction with the community at every level: French earlier, but it could also apply in terms of science communication and the tools we have and limitations of them and how we can optimize better communication in what we do in research and service in a language people understand. C. Marchionni shared this also pertains to their health promotion events.

- ii. *Open Science:* As of January 25, 2023, D. Eidelman noted another aspect to sustainability in research which is “Open Science,” and we have a world champion, Dr. G. Rouleau. As of November 8, 2023, the Chair suggested holding this topic at a future meeting and having discussions about people’s experience with open science, either using open science resources or their own experience of engaging or not, further suggesting hearing from libraries about the open publication of where things are at now regarding repositories for publications and data. B. Robaire noted a new CIHR and tri-council requirement is to have all open by the end of next year. S. Bandara suggested speaking about a new Indigenous course that students created at EBOH. The Chair confirmed it was already noted on our list to invite S. Rourke to provide an update on where things are at with the Indigenous Health Professions Program (IHPP), and suggested hearing from people who are developing courses on Indigenous topics at the same time.

- iii. *Core Facilities:* As of November 8, 2023, the Chair shared that work is underway, noting this is principally specific to the School of Biomedical Sciences (SBMS). B. Robaire added many people in the hospitals also have core facilities that are shared. L. Moss asked if this topic should be retained until the new Associate Dean, SBMS has been named, for which B. Robaire agreed. The Chair further noted there was a SBMS retreat held recently that could also be discussed, such as perhaps an update on campus-based research.

Education topics:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – Constructive Feedback module:* As of November 8, 2023, L. Moss suggested this topic for consideration, noting this is the next module (the first was on microaggressions and was mandatory) and it will not be mandatory, however they will try to have some continuing professional development credits added to it to incentivize people to take it. She expressed its full launch is expected in February, suggesting a 1.5 minute teaser extract of the video portion which complements a microlearning activity can be shown at Faculty Council as a soft launch to let people know what is coming. The Chair agreed, further noting this could act as a reminder for the Our Words Matter campaign and could be presented after the Dean's remarks.
- ii. *RECURRING TOPIC – AI in education and the disruption it may be causing:* B. Robaire noted this topic needs to come up at some point. The Chair asked who could speak to it. L. Moss reminded we had a small presentation about this from Teaching & Learning Services (TLS) as well as F. Bhanji last year. It was noted this might be an interesting topic for discussion, perhaps at a later meeting. S. Bandara indicated there were some recommendations from TLS about how we can teach and also include it in research and suggested including them in the next presentation. B. Robaire noted the implications are more than just for teaching. All agreed to hold this topic for the winter or spring meeting. As of November 8, 2023, no discussion was had.
- iii. *Outcomes for learners/patients re telemedicine @ JGH virtual ward:* As of November 8, 2022, C. Marchionni indicated the Jewish General Hospital has a virtual ward when they do early discharge for patients often with congestive heart failure and they have students doing their clinical placement in the virtual ward. She suggested a presentation of some outcomes for learners/patients in the realm of the telemedicine theme. D. Eidelman noted this would be a good fit for the theme of educational core facilities as examples of alternate forms of clinical placements and clinical training. As of January 25, 2023, D. Eidelman asked who the right person to present this would be. C. Marchionni sent the contact person's name to L. Moss. D. Eidelman stated this will speak to the Professional Schools and provide opportunities for research. As of August 30, 2023, C. Marchionni noted this is ongoing and has two perspectives: the patient/healthcare system versus learner experience. The Chair suggested holding this topic for a future meeting where a possible theme could be innovation in our

clinical healthcare delivery and how it meshes with what we are teaching in our clinical setting. As of November 8, 2023, no discussion was had.

- iv. *Clinical instructors in Nursing (& other Professional Schools)*: As suggested by C. Marchionni on August 25, 2021, in Nursing, there is a serious issue in recruiting clinical instructors, for which D. Eidelman suggested a presentation could be made at a later meeting to focus on Nursing and any other Professional Schools. As of November 8, 2023, C. Marchionni suggested removing this topic as there is now an office to find clinical instructors. The Chair noted there may be a more general topic about academic engagement for faculty of all kinds who are not traditionally in our core teaching settings.

Faculty topics:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – Directors of each of the 5 Schools to present (rotating basis) their vision/plan for their School*: B. Robaire suggested this topic, noting there is a new structure in place and many do not fully understand the visions of the different schools, particularly of the three newer ones. He thus suggested having a rotating presentation at Faculty Council meetings from one of the Directors of a School about what they are doing. The Chair replied that the Schools that are not new are in transitional moments for various reasons including Director searches, external reviews, etc. She further noted that of the newer Schools, since the School of Population and Global Health (SPGH) has three new departments set with leadership, perhaps a representative can be invited to speak about progress and prioritization at the February Faculty Council meeting.

L. Moss asked for guidance on how to proceed with the topics that were discussed in order to adequately prepare the agenda, guest speakers, etc. The Chair suggested that in terms of direction, she would like to obtain input during Faculty Council for a refresh of the strategic plan and outlined some ideas for discussion, including social accountability. B. Robaire agreed, adding it should be structured in a way that people make a certain number of specific suggestions per breakout room, however timing should be considered. G. Soufi asked about the possibility of hybrid format for meetings in order to foster more discussion, for which L. Moss confirmed it used to be the case given Campus Outaouais, noting however we are limited with our IT set-up. All agreed it is worth trying breakout rooms. The Chair also asked for feedback on the topic of social accountability, for which B. Robaire was in favor, noting all input received could be collected and included in the minutes. S. Bandara suggested providing pointers as to some examples where people can go, for which the Chair agreed, however she noted she would be interested in hearing more what people think. J. Clement further suggested possibly introducing the mission of social accountability and inviting a couple of people who are doing these initiatives to give concrete examples and lead that into the questions and breakout rooms. L. Gonnerman mentioned it will be motivating for people

to engage if they feel the ideas they come up with in breakout rooms are being heard. The Chair agreed, mentioning all ideas should be captured via the chat.

- ii. *Indigenous Health Professions Program & Social Accountability & Community Engagement re showcase services offered/initiatives underway to support diversity & equity within the FMHS:* The Chair suggested holding this topic until things are settled with the different portfolios there to come to the Council with a clear explanation of the mandates of these entities under their new leadership. As of November 8, 2023, see discussion in “*Open Science*” on page 3.
- iii. *(RECURRING) TOPIC – Update on French in the Faculty:* L. Moss suggested inviting Leon Tourian (Postgraduate Medical Education; PGME) to speak on this as he was given the task to govern this portfolio in PGME. The Chair suggested thinking of it more broadly (e.g. clinical students who need to train in the clinical setting and eventually work in clinical settings, etc.) It was decided to provide a brief preliminary discussion on this. As of November 8, 2023, see discussion in first paragraph on page 2.
- iv. *Communication and knowledge transfer of health issues to the public and the Faculty’s role:* At the November 8, 2022 Steering Committee meeting, S. Bandara suggested the topic of communication and knowledge transfer of health issues to the public and the role the Faculty can play. D. Eidelman agreed and noted we would just need to figure out who would be the best spokesperson. As of November 8, 2023, no discussion was had.
- v. *Bill S-5:* B. Robaire suggested this topic at the April 12, 2022 Steering Committee meeting, noting it pertains to a revision to all chemical regulations in terms of what is used in all products in hospitals, the environment and in society and their impact on health which should be complete by Fall. As of August 24, 2022, B. Robaire confirmed there are no new developments. As of November 8, 2023, no discussion was had.

Varia:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – Inviting Principal D. Saini to speak:* As of November 8, 2023, see item “*Visa & passport inequities*” on page 2.
- ii. *NEW TOPIC – Thematic meetings:* At the August 30 Steering Committee meeting, D. Colby suggested having thematic meetings whereby one for instance would deal primarily with education or research. The Chair suggested themes more like AI impact and touch upon its impact on research and education. This way, people would know what to expect and we could leave more time for discussion around a core topic. As of November 8, 2023, no discussion was had.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and participation on this committee. There being no other business to address, the meeting ended at 3:01 p.m.